

3.5: Non-homogeneous Constant Coefficient Second Order (Undetermined Coefficients)

Given $ay'' + by' + cy = g(t)$, $y(t_0) = y_0$ and $y'(t_0) = y'_0$.

Step 1: Find the general solution of the homogeneous equation $ay'' + by' + cy = 0$.

(Write and solve the characteristic equation, then use methods from 3.1, 3.3, and 3.4).

At this point, you'll have two independent solutions to the homogeneous equation: $y_1(t)$ and $y_2(t)$.

Step 2: From the table below, identify the likely form of the answer of a **particular solution**, $Y(t)$, to $ay'' + by' + cy = g(t)$.

Table of Particular Solution Forms

$g(t)$	e^{rt}	$\sin(\omega t)$ or $\cos(\omega t)$	C	t	t^2	t^3
$Y(t)$	Ae^{rt}	$A \cos(\omega t) + B \sin(\omega t)$	A	$At + B$	$At^2 + Bt + C$	$At^3 + Bt^2 + Ct + D$

First some notes on the use of this table:

- If $g(t)$ is a sum/difference of these problems, then so is $Y(t)$.
For example, if $g(t) = e^{4t} + \sin(5t)$, then try $Y(t) = Ae^{4t} + B \cos(5t) + C \sin(5t)$.
- If $g(t)$ is a product of these problems, then so is $Y(t)$.
For example, if $g(t) = t^2 e^{5t}$, then try $Y(t) = (At^2 + Bt + C)e^{5t}$.
- **Important:** How to adjusting for homogeneous solutions
Consider a particular term of $g(t)$. If the table suggests you use the form $Y(t)$ for this term, but $Y(t)$ contains a homogeneous solution, then you need to multiply by t (and if that still contains a homogeneous solution, then multiply by t^2 instead).
For example, $g(t) = te^{2t}$, then you would initially guess the form $Y(t) = (At + B)e^{2t}$. But if the homogeneous solutions are $y_1(t) = e^{2t}$ and $y_2(t) = te^{2t}$, then Be^{2t} is a multiple of a homogeneous solution. So you use the form: $Y(t) = t(At + B)e^{2t} = (At^2 + Bt)e^{2t}$.
For another example, if $g(t) = te^{7t}$, then you would initially guess the form $Y(t) = (At + B)e^{7t}$. But if the homogeneous solutions are $y_1(t) = e^{7t}$ and $y_2(t) = te^{7t}$, then Be^{7t} AND Ate^{7t} are both multiples of a homogeneous solution. So you use the form: $Y(t) = t^2(At + B)e^{7t} = (At^3 + Bt^2)e^{7t}$.

Step 3: Compute $Y'(t)$ and $Y''(t)$. Substitute $Y(t)$, $Y'(t)$ and $Y''(t)$ into $ay'' + by' + cy = g(t)$.

Step 4: Solve for the coefficients and write your general solution:

$$y(t) = c_1 y_1(t) + c_2 y_2(t) + Y(t)$$

Step 5: Use the initial conditions and solve for c_1 and c_2 .

Here are some problems to practice identifying the correct form.

In line, you are given $g(t)$ as well as independent homogeneous solutions $y_1(t)$, and $y_2(t)$.

Give the form of the particular solution, $Y(t)$ (solutions below).

1.	$ay'' + by' + cy = e^{2t}$	$y_1(t) = \cos(t)$	$y_2(t) = \sin(t)$
2.	$ay'' + by' + cy = \cos(3t)$	$y_1(t) = e^{3t}$	$y_2(t) = e^{-t}$
3.	$ay'' + by' + cy = e^{4t}$	$y_1(t) = e^{4t}$	$y_2(t) = e^{-2t}$
4.	$ay'' + by' + cy = t$	$y_1(t) = e^{6t}$	$y_2(t) = te^{6t}$
5.	$ay'' + by' + cy = e^{3t}$	$y_1(t) = e^{3t}$	$y_2(t) = te^{3t}$
6.	$ay'' + by' + cy = e^t \sin(5t)$	$y_1(t) = e^{-t}$	$y_2(t) = e^{6t}$
7.	$ay'' + by' + cy = \sin(t) + t$	$y_1(t) = e^{-2t} \cos(4t)$	$y_2(t) = e^{-2t} \sin(4t)$
8.	$ay'' + by' + cy = \cos(2t)$	$y_1(t) = \cos(2t)$	$y_2(t) = \sin(2t)$
9.	$ay'' + by' + cy = 5 + e^{2t}$	$y_1(t) = e^{3t}$	$y_2(t) = e^{-6t}$
10.	$ay'' + by' + cy = te^{2t} \cos(5t)$	$y_1(t) = e^t$	$y_2(t) = te^t$

Solutions

- $Y(t) = Ae^{2t}$.
- $Y(t) = A \cos(3t) + B \sin(3t)$.
- $Y(t) = Ate^{4t}$.
- $Y(t) = At + B$.
- $Y(t) = At^2e^{3t}$.
- $Y(t) = e^t(A \cos(5t) + B \sin(5t))$.
- $Y(t) = A \cos(t) + B \sin(t) + Ct + D$.
- $Y(t) = At \cos(2t) + Bt \sin(2t)$.
- $Y(t) = A + Be^{2t}$.
- $Y(t) = (At + B)e^{2t} \cos(5t) + (Ct + D)e^{2t} \sin(5t)$.

Examples:

1. Give the general solution to $y'' + 10y' + 21y = 5e^{2t}$.

Solution:

- (a) *Solve Homogeneous:*

The equation $r^2 + 10r + 21 = (r + 3)(r + 7) = 0$ has the roots $r_1 = -3$ and $r_2 = -7$.

So $y_1(t) = e^{-3t}$ and $y_2(t) = e^{-7t}$

- (b) *Particular Solution Form:*

$$Y(t) = Ae^{2t}$$

- (c) *Substitute:*

$Y'(t) = 2Ae^{2t}$ and $Y''(t) = 4Ae^{2t}$. Substituting gives

$$4Ae^{2t} + 10(2Ae^{2t}) + 21(Ae^{2t}) = 5e^{2t} \Rightarrow 45Ae^{2t} = 5e^{2t}. \text{ Thus, } A = \frac{5}{45} = \frac{1}{9}.$$

- (d) *General Solution:*

$$y(t) = c_1e^{-3t} + c_2e^{-7t} + \frac{1}{9}e^{2t}.$$

2. Give the general solution to $y'' - 2y' + y = 6t$.

Solution:

- (a) *Solve Homogeneous:*

The equation $r^2 - 2r + 1 = (r - 1)^2 = 0$ has the one root $r = 1$.

So $y_1(t) = e^t$ and $y_2(t) = te^t$.

- (b) *Particular Solution Form:*

$$Y(t) = At + B$$

- (c) *Substitute:*

$Y'(t) = A$ and $Y''(t) = 0$. Substituting gives

$$(0) - 2(A) + (At + B) = 6t \Rightarrow At + (B - 2A) = 6t. \text{ Thus, } A = 6 \text{ and } B - 2A = 0. \text{ So } B = 12$$

- (d) *General Solution:*

$$y(t) = c_1e^t + c_2te^t + 6t + 12.$$

3. Give the general solution to $y'' + 4y = \cos(t)$.

Solution:

(a) *Solve Homogeneous:*

The equation $r^2 + 4 = 0$ has the roots $r = \pm 2i$.

So $y_1(t) = \cos(2t)$ and $y_2(t) = \sin(2t)$.

(b) *Particular Solution Form:*

$Y(t) = A \cos(t) + B \sin(t)$

(c) *Substitute:*

$Y'(t) = -A \sin(t) + B \cos(t)$ and $Y''(t) = -A \cos(t) - B \sin(t)$. Substituting gives

$(-A \cos(t) - B \sin(t)) + 4(A \cos(t) + B \sin(t)) = \cos(t) \Rightarrow 3A \cos(t) + 3B \sin(t) = \cos(t)$.

Thus, $A = \frac{1}{3}$ and $B = 0$.

(d) *General Solution:*

$y(t) = c_1 \cos(2t) + c_2 \sin(2t) + \frac{1}{3} \cos(t)$.

4. Give the general solution to $y'' - 5y' = 3e^{5t}$.

Solution:

(a) *Solve Homogeneous:*

The equation $r^2 - 5r = 0$ has the roots $r_1 = 0$, $r_2 = 5$.

So $y_1(t) = 1$ and $y_2(t) = e^{5t}$.

(b) *Particular Solution Form:*

$Y(t) = Ate^{5t}$ (because $y_2(t) = e^{5t}$).

(c) *Substitute:*

$Y'(t) = Ae^{5t} + 5Ate^{5t} = A(1 + 5t)e^{5t}$ and $Y''(t) = 5Ae^{5t} + 5A(1 + 5t)e^{5t} = A(10 + 25t)e^{5t}$.

Substituting gives

$A(10 + 25t)e^{5t} - 5A(1 + 5t)e^{5t} = 3e^{5t} \Rightarrow 5Ae^{5t} = 3e^{5t}$. Thus, $A = \frac{3}{5}$.

(d) *General Solution:*

$y(t) = c_1 + c_2e^{5t} + \frac{3}{5}te^{5t}$.

5. Give the general solution to $y'' - 3y' + 3y = 3t + e^{-2t}$.

Solution:

(a) *Solve Homogeneous:*

The equation $r^2 - 3r + 3 = 0$ has the roots $r = \frac{3 \pm \sqrt{9-12}}{2} = \frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}i$.

So $y_1(t) = e^{3t/2} \cos(\sqrt{3}t/2)$ and $y_2(t) = e^{3t/2} \sin(\sqrt{3}t/2)$.

(b) *Particular Solution Form:*

$Y(t) = At + B + Ce^{-2t}$.

(c) *Substitute:*

$Y'(t) = A - 2Ce^{-2t}$ and $Y''(t) = 4Ce^{-2t}$. Substituting gives

$4Ce^{-2t} - 3(A - 2Ce^{-2t}) + 3(At + B + Ce^{-2t}) = 3t + e^{-2t} \Rightarrow 3At + (-3A + 3B) + (4C + 6C + 3C)e^{-2t} = 3t + e^{-2t}$. Thus, $3A = 3$, $-3A + 3B = 0$ and $13C = 1$. So $A = 1$, $B = 1$, and $C = \frac{1}{13}$

(d) *General Solution:*

$y(t) = c_1 e^{3t/2} \cos(\sqrt{3}t/2) + c_2 e^{3t/2} \sin(\sqrt{3}t/2) + t + 1 + \frac{1}{13}e^{-2t}$.

6. Give the general solution to $y'' - 9y = (5t^2 - 1)e^t$.

Solution:

(a) *Solve Homogeneous:*

The equation $r^2 - 9 = 0$ has the roots $r = \pm 3$.

So $y_1(t) = e^{3t}$ and $y_2(t) = e^{-3t}$.

(b) *Particular Solution Form:*

$Y(t) = (At^2 + Bt + C)e^t$

(c) *Substitute:*

$Y'(t) = (2At + B)e^t + (At^2 + Bt + C)e^t = (At^2 + (2A + B)t + (B + C))e^t$ and

$Y''(t) = (2At + (2A + B))e^t + (At^2 + (2A + B)t + (B + C))e^t = (At^2 + (4A + B)t + (2A + 2B + C))e^t$.

Substituting gives

$(At^2 + (4A + B)t + (2A + 2B + C))e^t - 9(At^2 + Bt + C)e^t = (5t^2 - 1)e^t$

$\Rightarrow -8At^2 + (4A - 8B)t + (2A + 2B - 8C) = 5t^2 - 1$.

Thus, $-8A = 5$, $4A - 8B = 0$ and $2A + 2B - 8C = -1$. So $A = -\frac{5}{8}$, $B = \frac{1}{2}A = -\frac{5}{16}$, and $C = \frac{2A + 2B + 1}{8} = -\frac{5}{32} - \frac{5}{64} + \frac{1}{8} = -\frac{7}{64}$.

(d) *General Solution:*

$y(t) = c_1 e^{3t} + c_2 e^{-3t} + (-\frac{5}{8}t^2 - \frac{5}{16}t - \frac{7}{64})e^t$.